

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to add the section heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION," as well as to better accord with amended Fig. 1, and to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 1 and 5 have been amended as described hereinabove to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware.

Submitted herewith are corrected sheets of formal drawings which incorporate the amendments and annotated sheets showing the changes made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the drawings be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 15 has been amended, based on the subject matter of (now canceled) original claim 16, to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the setting data comprises activity data indicating processing to be performed for the image data, and whereby the image formation is conducted for each of the selected sets of JOB data such that the image forming section respectively performs the image processing indicated by the respective activity data for each of the selected sets of JOB data.

New claim 29 has been added depending from claim 15, based on the subject matter of (now canceled) original claim 1, to recite the features of the present invention whereby the image forming apparatus comprises a judging section to judge propriety of the selected sets of JOB data based on the setting data of the selected sets of JOB data, and whereby the selected sets of JOB data are combined by the control section only if the selected sets of JOB data are judged to be combinable by the judging section.

New claim 30 has been added depending from claim 15, based on the subject matter of (now canceled) original claim 20, to recite the features of the present invention whereby the image forming apparatus comprises a control condition designating means for designating a control condition for the set of combined JOB

data, and whereby the control section controls the image forming section so as to conduct the image formation for the combined JOB data based on the control condition designated by the control condition designating means.

New claims 31 and 32 have been added depending from claim 15 based on the disclosure in the specification at page 33, line 1 to page 36, line 6.

Claims 2-6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 23, 24 and 26-28 have been amended to depend from new claim 29.

And claims 2-15, 17, 18 and 23-28 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. All of the informalities pointed out by the Examiner have been corrected.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 2-15, 17, 18 and 23-28 and the addition of claims 29-32 be approved and entered, and that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,813,038 ("Kadowaki"); claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Kadowaki and USP 5,918,988 ("Van Oijen"); and

claim 26 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Kadowaki and USP 5,715,381 ("Hamilton"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as set forth hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 15, an image forming apparatus is provided which comprises an image information receiving section to receive image information including image data and setting data indicating a control condition at a time of image formation, wherein the setting data comprises activity data indicating processing to be performed for the image data.

In addition, the image forming apparatus recited in amended independent claim 15 comprises a first storing section to store temporarily the image information received by the image information receiving section as one set of JOB data; an image forming section to form an image based on the image information stored in the first storing section; a second storing section to store a plurality of pieces of said image information received by the image information receiving section as a plurality of sets of JOB data; and a selecting section to select a plurality of the sets of JOB data to be combined from the plurality of sets of JOB data stored in the second storing section.

Still further, the image forming apparatus recited in amended independent claim 15 comprises a control section to

combine the selected plurality of sets of JOB data into a single set of combined JOB data, to store the combined JOB data in the first storing section, and to control the image forming section to conduct an image formation of the set of combined JOB data based on the setting data of each of the selected sets of JOB data such that the image forming section respectively performs the image processing indicated by the respective activity data for each of the selected sets of JOB data.

Thus, according to the present invention, the image information includes image data and setting data indicating a control condition at the time of an image formation. In addition, according to the claimed present invention, the setting data includes, in particular, activity data (see page 33, line 1 to page 36, line 6). And as recited in amended independent claim 15 and as described in the specification at page 34, line 15 to page 35, line 13, the image formation of the set of combined JOB data is conducted based on the respective setting data of each of the selected sets of JOB data, such that the image forming section respectively performs the image processing indicated by the respective activity data for each of the selected sets of JOB data.

That is, as shown in Fig. 7, for example, if the activity data of a first set of JOB data including pages 1-3 indicates single side printing, the activity data of a second set of JOB

data including pages 4-9 indicates double sided printing, and the activity data of a third set of JOB data including pages 10-12 indicates single sided printing, then in the set of combined JOB data pages 1-3 and 10-12 are printed using single side printing and pages 4-9 are printed using double side printing, in accordance with the activity data of the respective sets of JOB data.

By contrast, according to Kadowaki, PDL (Page Description Language) is used specify various modes when executing a printing JOB, such as duplex mode, sort mode and staple mode, and JDL (Job Description Language) is used specify job joints. In addition, as described at column 9, line 57 to column 10, line 4, of Kadowaki for example, if a current job is joint instructed by the JDL, then the mode assigned in the JDL job is given priority over the individual modes (i.e. ordinary, duplex or 4-in-1 printing) of the job.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Kadowaki does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 15 whereby a control section controls the image forming section to conduct an image formation of the set of combined JOB data based on the respective setting data of each of the selected sets of JOB data, such that the image forming section respectively performs the

image processing indicated by the respective activity data for each of the selected sets of JOB data.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 15, and claims 2-14, 17, 18 and 23-32 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Kadowaki, taken singly or in combination with any of the other cited references, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig. 1 has been amended to change reference numeral 15₂ to 14A₂, and to change 14B₂ to 14₂; and Fig. 5 has been amended to change "THE FIRST MEMORY MEANS C2 TO THE FIRST MEMORY MEANS C1" to "THE SECOND MEMORY MEANS C3 TO THE FIRST MEMORY MEANS C2."

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
 Replacement Sheet



FIG. 1

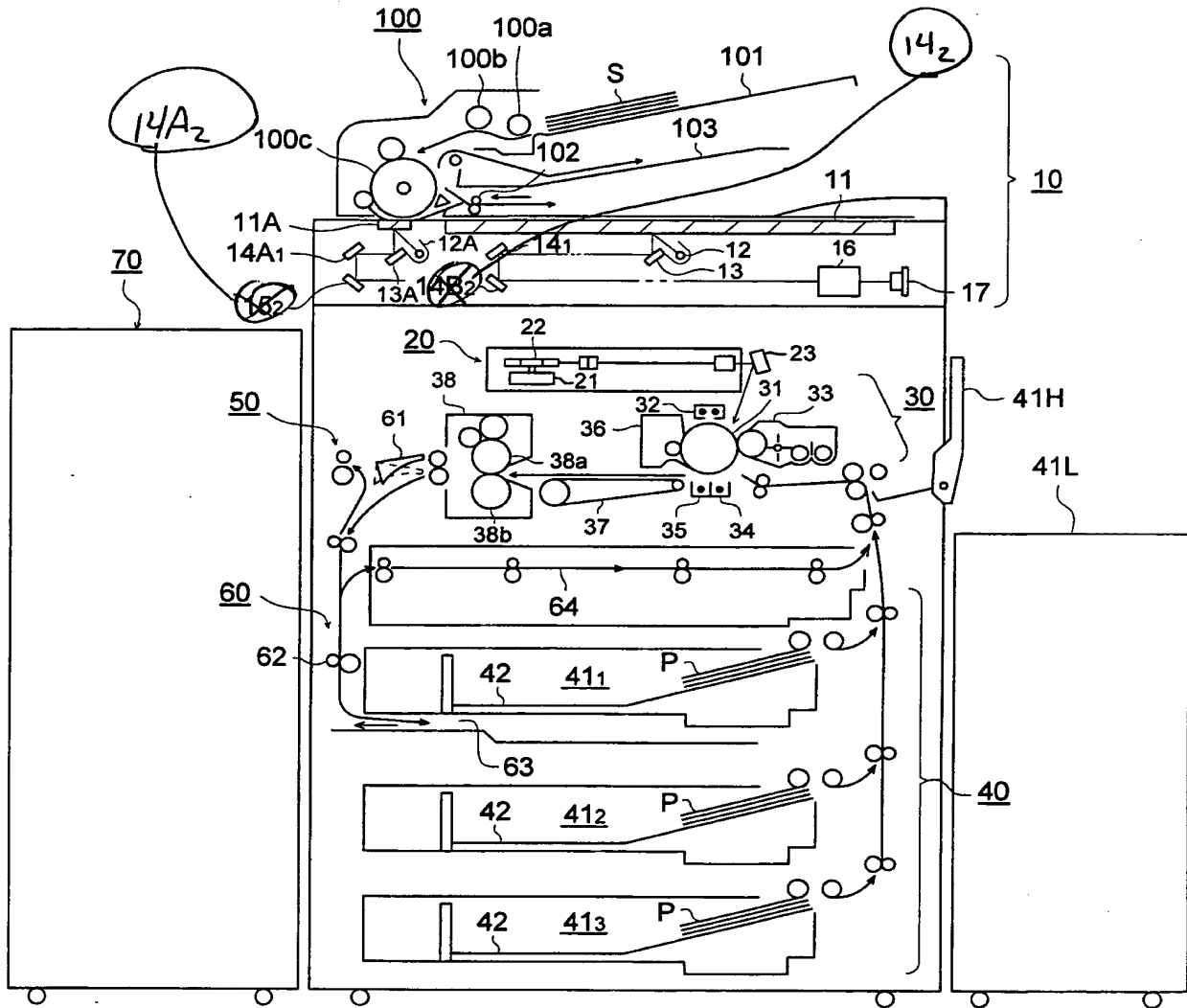




FIG. 4

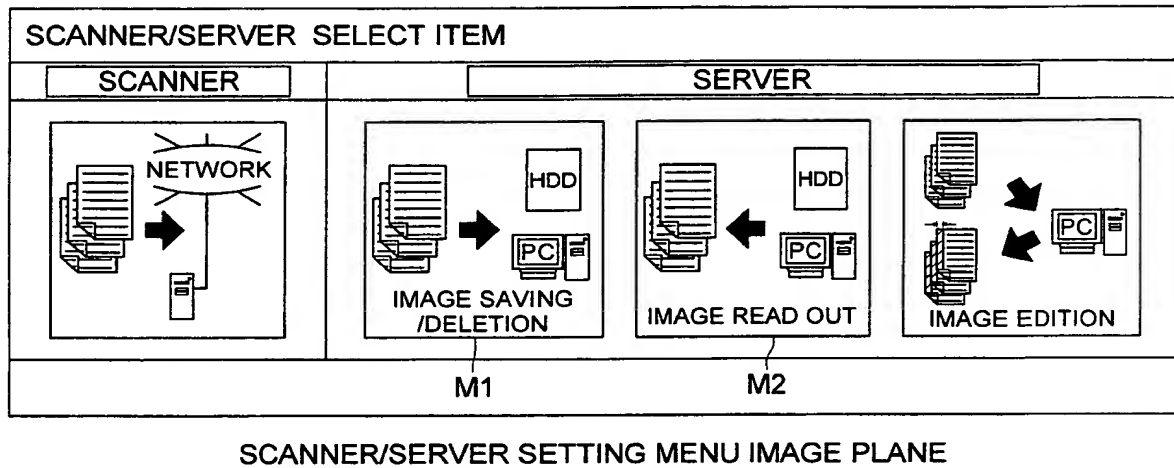


FIG. 5

